

WM. M. OVERTON, CH. MAURICE SMITH,
AND BEVERLY TUCKER.

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

JANUARY 13, 1855.

All letters on business should be addressed to "The Sentinel Office," Washington.

O. H. P. STIM, is our authorized agent for collecting accounts due this office, and for obtaining new subscribers in Virginia.

We call the attention of our readers to a communication on the subject of Judiciary Reform in the District of Columbia, published in our issue of this morning. It refutes many of the arguments that are urged against reform, and effectually dispels some of the errors that prevail on the subject.

THE JUDICIARY REFORM.

We furnish, this morning, for the information of our readers, the bill for the reform of the judicial system of the United States, as reported from the Senate committee by Hon. A. P. Butler. It will be recollected by our readers that, on the 18th of May last, Judge Douglas presented a substitute, by way of amendment, to the bill. The two measures of reform are now before the Senate, and are engrossing much of its time and attention. We will insert the substitute in our issue of to-morrow, and reserve for some future time our comments on the relative merits of the two propositions. Meanwhile, we would say, that the necessity for some reform, and the general importance of the subject, entitles it to the deliberation and full investigation which it has and will secure.

ILLNESS OF JOHN V. MASON.

Letters which reached this city yesterday, (by the Baltic,) announce the serious illness of Judge Mason, our Minister to France. We learn that he was suddenly attacked by paralysis, which left him in a critical condition. This intelligence, which has caused us more than a common sorrow, will awaken general regret throughout the country, for no one enjoys a more universal and a better deserved popularity than the distinguished Minister to France. We sincerely hope that the next news will inform us of his complete restoration to health.

HON. MOSES NORRIS.

The short but serious illness of this gentleman, which excited the apprehensions and fears of all his friends on Wednesday, terminated fatally on Thursday evening, at ten o'clock. The suddenness of the attack, and the brief struggle which nature made with the disease render it an occasion of more than ordinary solemnity. It is, however, a source of consolation to his survivors, to know that he was cheered in the last hours of his life by the affectionate attentions of his nearest relatives, that the hand of friendship ministered to his wants, and closed his eyes.

Moses Norris, jr., entered Congress as a representative from New Hampshire, in the year 1843, and remained in that capacity until the year 1847. His course in the House, his strict attention to the business of his constituency, and his devoted adherence to the principles of the Democratic party met with the approval of the legislature of his native State, who, in the year 1849, elevated him to the Senate of the United States. In this exalted position his integrity, and his industry, his capacity, and his unwavering devotion to his principles gained for him the esteem of his compatriots.

He died in harness, respected by all who knew him, and honored by those to whom his merits and his worth had endeared him. His remains, we understand, will be conveyed to his native New Hampshire for burial, attended by a joint committee of the two Houses of Congress, and by his mourning friends, who watched over his last hours.

In further testimony of their regard, the two Houses adjourned, after the adoption of the usual resolutions of respect.

INTERCHANGES OF KINDNESS BETWEEN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH.

The following dispatch shows that charity is not bounded by geographical lines and that philanthropy knows no latitudes or longitudes in its diffusive and pervading beneficence:

"NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 8, 1855.—The Howard Association of this city voted, to-day, the sum of two thousand dollars for the benefit of the poor of New York."

This is, as it were, but the return of a loan; it is but the reciprocity of kindness and charity. It will be remembered that when New Orleans was suffering from the fearful ravages of the pestilence, summer before last, New York contributed liberally of her means to alleviate the miseries of the poor, as she did during the past summer for the relief of other Southern cities which were desolated by the same dreadful scourge—the yellow fever.

Such friendly interchanges contrast pleasantly with the sectional animosities and recriminations that occur with melancholy frequency between the Northern and Southern portions of the Confederacy, and tend to show that, despite the acrimony sometimes displayed, there is a solid substratum of kindness and brotherly feeling beneath a ruffled and agitated surface.

Judging from the accounts that reach us in the New York papers, never before, in this country, was there so much suffering among the laboring classes as now exists in that great city, and never was relief more opportune than that afforded by the Howard Association of New Orleans.

The working men, thrown out of employment, occupy their time in holding excited meetings and in listening to inflammatory harangues. The burden of their complaints is the want of work and the want of bread. Such a dreadful condition of things always draws out with repulsive and alarming distinctness the worst qualities of man, ingratitude to Providence, disaffection towards Government, disobedience to authorities, and envy and hatred of the rich. There is something ominous and menacing in the inscriptions on the banners used by the two thousand discontented and desperate working men who assembled in the Park on Wednesday last. These inscriptions were—"WE WANT WORK, AND MEAT HAVE WE"—"LIVE AND LET LIVE"—"HUNGER IS A BRIGHT THORN"—"THIS IS OUR LAST RESOURSE."

VICTORY OF SANTA ANNA OVER THE REBELS IN MEXICO.

We have received our files of Mexican papers from the 5th to the 16th of December, thus embracing a space of a fortnight. The most interesting news we see in these papers appears to be the victory of the troops of Santa Anna over the rebels of the State of Michoacan—the text of a contract between the Mexican government and M. M. Moore & Co., for the exclusive privilege of a railroad across the whole territory of the Mexican republic, to be commenced at the northern frontier on the mouth of el Rio Bravo and terminate at a point on the Pacific ocean between Altata and Manzanillo—and finally, the hope that once victorious over Russia and Turkey, and seated on firm ground, the allies will assist the cause of weak American nationalities against the unbounded ambitions of their powerful neighbors.

These hopes or expectations, as you will choose to call them, are not without a native flavor which we will not undertake to qualify through respect for our neighbors on the other side of the Rio-Grande, with whom we desire to keep on terms of friendship. This, however, will not deter us from advising our readers that the paper from which our news is derived, is clothed with an official character, which in the present condition of things in Mexico, means that it expresses the views of Santa Anna rather than public opinion. We must add also, that it would be difficult to find news anywhere else but in the official organs of the country, since, if we are not mistaken, the stringency of the law on the press is such, that it is almost impossible to assert the truth in any other way than through official channels. This peculiarity gives to the word truth a certain character which our readers will not fail to appreciate.

In reference to the defeat of the Michoacan rebels the *Universal* says that the details of the battle now in its possession, indicate that the factions have received a death blow. According to this version, they numbered above three thousand when they attacked the capital of that department—two thousand cavalry, and one thousand infantry. This shows that the number of the disaffected is stronger than that of the partisans of the government, a thing which the *Universal* testifies in saying that the garrison of the city was infinitely inferior to that of the aggressors. The same paper adds, that the rebels displayed an intrepidity worthy of a better cause. The fring lasted seven hours. The result of the battle, according to the *Universal*, was the defeat of the assailants, with a loss of one thousand men, prisoners included. This, however, and we may say, unhappily for the Mexicans, is not a sure omen of the establishment of concord and union among them. The blaze of the revolution is not blowing on one side, blows on another. History teaches us that revolution in Mexico is like the many-headed monster of the fable, whose privilege it was to recover two heads when losing one.

In reference to the projected railroad, it is said in the treaty that the company for its construction must be formed within eight months from the publication of the decree, without which the contract will be void. That clause has to be made known to the Mexican minister in Washington and in London. Once the company made up, they are obliged to commence their operations within two years and a half, and to complete the whole line within ten years.

The government will keep a fourth part of the stock of the company to be sold among the inhabitants of Mexico. With that view, books of subscription will be opened in all the important places of the State. Among other stipulations between the company and the government it is said that the former will, by their contract, be obliged to convey the troops of the government and munitions of war at fifty per cent. less than the usual charges set down in their tariff. Besides, they will have to pay to the government ten per cent. on the dividends and fifteen thousand dollars every six months from the day of the opening of the railroad.

Such are the main charges imposed by Santa Anna upon the contractors of the railroad, in exchange of which he will concede the following advantages: First, the government will give to the company all the uncultivated ground in its possession necessary to the construction of the aforesaid railroad. As to the lands belonging to others, the company is authorized to take them on condition that the owners be indemnified. Secondly: All implements, machinery, utensils, trains, coal, iron, and all things needed during the furtherance of the work will be admitted into Mexico free of duty. All goods and merchandise of transit will be allowed to pass free through the country. The vessels belonging to the company will not be subjected to any duty in the two harbors situated at the extreme termini of the line. That advantage will be extended to them for the space of fifty years to commence at the time of the opening of the communications.

This project, as far as we have the means of judging, seems to us pretty liberal, and will not fail, we hope, to attract the attention of our American capitalists, more interested, perhaps, than any others, in having a share in the operation. At a time when the right of passage across the Isthmus presents itself, under the shape of a vital question, to the attention of the people of the United States, a plan having the same object in contemplation cannot be viewed with supineness. We then hope, should this railroad prove to be serious and practicable, (a thing upon which we beg to exercise our rights of mental restriction,) that our enterprising capitalists will look on the other side of the Rio Grande, to see whether they cannot assist our Mexican neighbors in their laudable undertaking. This is a project truly worthy of the genius of our people, and more profitable, in our opinion, than the one preached by Peter the Hermit of our time—Colonel Benton. Every body will understand why.

As regards the opinion of the Mexican press, in reference to the Allied Powers, the *Universal* says, that it cannot be denied that it is satisfactory to see the two most advanced nations of the world now combating for justice and right, disposed to sustain the same cause in America; or, in other words, that they would, if necessary, defend the independence and security of the weak States against the threats of a powerful nation. Though those words are uttered in a covert sense, and are followed by a compli-

ment to the wisdom and prudence of the present Cabinet, it is evident that Santa Anna takes his measures, in case of an eventuality, which his well-known recklessness would perhaps seek after, was he not kept busy at home by the insubordination of the people, and in gathering, what he is so much in want of—the nerve of war-money. However, it is left and proper to notice the feelings of our neighbors towards us. The time comes to nations, as to individuals, when all accounts, old and new, are to be balanced. When that day comes, we will not forget the kind wishes of our neighbor.

THE HON. JOSEPH R. CHANDLER delivered a speech, in the House of Representatives, on Thursday, in reply to the Know-nothing effort of Mr. Banks. He denied emphatically and positively that the Roman Catholic Church, or the Pope, claims or seeks to exercise control in the political affairs of nations; and, in support of this denial, he quoted from the published opinions of the most eminent of the bishops of that Church. Mr. Chandler, who is a Catholic, ably defended the Church of which he is a member from the charges made against it in this particular. His remarks were eloquent and patriotic, to such a degree as to elicit the spontaneous applause of many of his distinguished auditors.

THE PETERSBURG INTELLIGENCER of Thursday says: "Mr. Wise addressed a monster audience, at Phoenix Hall, last evening, collected at two hours' notice. We will speak of his address to-morrow."

"His next regular appointment is for Halifax, where he will be in season."

ITEMS.

FORGERY OF TEXAS BONDS.—Important arrest in New York.—There has recently been put in circulation in Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York, a quantity of spurious Texas certificates with the forged signature of the auditor and officers of the Government so handsomely executed that several brokers have been victimized. An arrest was made in New York, on Wednesday, which will probably put a stop to the game, at least for the present. The *Times* says:

The accused called at the exchange office of Mr. James H. Ward, and offered for sale a package of these certificates; but Mr. James, suspecting something wrong, left the party until he could ascertain their value. Upon the return of the broker, the holder of the certificates was missing. Meanwhile, Gen. Ward, United States Consul at Panama, accompanied by several Texan gentlemen, happened to visit the office of Mr. James, and while they were scrutinizing the certificates the applicant came back to close his bargain. The aggregate amount of those he offered to sell was about \$5,000, for which he agreed to take \$1,300, and would have been paid this amount by Mr. James had not the Consul and his friends pronounced them a gross forgery.

When accused, the prisoner declared that he met a man in Broadway, who boarded at the Mercer Hotel, and who had been negotiating the certificates and meet him at the Hotel in the evening. The prisoner was brought before the Magistrate at the Hall of Justice, but he refused to give his name or say anything concerning his place of residence or business. He had previously given the name of C. A. Keene, and under that cognomen the Justice committed him.

The Case of Dr. Graham.

SING SING PRISON.

INSPECTOR'S OFFICE, Wednesday, Jan. 10, 1855.

To the Editor of the New York Daily Times: Will you permit me to say, through your columns that the notice in the *Times* of to-day, (Albany letter), in relation to Dr. Graham's alleged intoxication and disorderly conduct, on Saturday morning last, is entirely erroneous, having not the slightest foundation in truth.

Dr. Graham was placed in the hospital of the prison, as apothecary, or assistant physician, because—as your correspondent correctly observed—he was thought to be eminently qualified for that position, and not from any leniency shown him on account of his former standing in society. Nor did he allow any privileges not strictly within the rules of discipline governing the prison. It is due to Dr. Graham to say, that not only is it incorrect that any such occurrence has transpired, but that he has conducted himself with the utmost propriety and order during his incarceration—performing the duties assigned him with a cheerfulness and alacrity entirely satisfactory to the officers of the prison.

Very respectfully yours,

NORWOOD BOWNE.

THE SLOOP OF WAR ALBANY.—The following letter from the commander of the Princeton appears in the New Orleans papers:

U. S. STEAMER PRINCETON.

Havana, Dec. 31, 1854.

DEAR SIR: You will much oblige me, on your arrival in New Orleans, by reporting this ship as having arrived from Aspinwall. We have been cruising in the Caribbean sea for some time past; we have also visited Jamaica, and received information from vessels which have arrived from the different ports, but I regret to state that we have not been able to gain any intelligence in regard to the missing Albany.

The Princeton will sail the day after to-morrow for Key West.

Respectfully and truly yours,

HENRY EAGLE.

To CAPT. R. W. SHIPLEY.

A BANK ROBBERY OF \$25,000.—On Tuesday, January 2, Mr. Sidel, the paying-teller of the Merchants' Bank, on making up the amount of specie in the vault, discovered a deficiency of exactly \$25,000! As the specie had been examined the two previous days and found right, this excited surprise. The teller immediately reported the fact to Mr. Palmer, the president, and Mr. Sidel, the cashier. As far as direct enquiry can go, no clue can be had to the robbery.

There is no one in the bank suspected, and, in fact, it could not be done by any one but the porter, who is beyond suspicion.

The vault door is situated in a very exposed situation, being near the entrance on the street, and it is supposed that the thief or thieves, while the porter was engaged in taking a large amount of gold for exchanges with other banks, he left the vault door open (a great door) ajar, and during the temporary absence, being watched, five bags of gold, of \$5,000 each, may have been abstracted by several thieves combining together.

But, it may be, that the gold has been delivered by mistake, instead of being "robbed." A reward of \$5,000 is offered for the discovery of the property.

SPIRIT OF THE SOUTHERN PRESS is the leader of a long article in the *Tribune*, copying the advertisements in Southern papers of runaway negroes. We hope the Southern press will not think of retaliation by showing up the spirit of the New York press—only in the *Tribune*—of the crime here, the murders here, the burglaries, the complaints on the mayor's and chiefs (police) books, the poverty, the ragged school boys, the soup-kitchens, &c. &c. The fact is, neither Northern nor Southern society is in a state of perfectibility. The *Tribune* ought to be most content with the Southern, because it is nearest foreign—a plantation being a *Fortier* association—the white man the head *Fortier*, the negroes "phantoms"—all things being pretty much in common, the head *Fortier* getting only the greatest share, because he has contributed the greatest "capital."—N. Y. Express.

VISITING CARDS Printed at Short Notice, and Plates beautifully engraved in every style. W. C. ZANTZINGER. Adjoining Kirkwood House. Dec 7—Star & Wif

Local and Personal.

Tucumseh.—An interesting incident, in the life of this celebrated warrior, was related by General Leslie Coombs, at the late Old Soldiers' Convention, in this city. That gentleman participated in the conflicts of the war, and was, therefore, an eye-witness of many harrowing scenes, some of which he graphically described, to the evident gratification of his venerable listeners.

At that day, where there are now five or six largely populated and prosperous western States, was almost an entire unbroken wilderness, infested by hostile savages; and through this the soldiers were obliged to march to the general battle. The accounts of the "hair-breadth escapes" were thrilling in an extreme degree; such as to excite no regret that the auditors of the speaker were not present with him to share in the imminent perils which he and his compatriots encountered.

The Indian allies of the British, in the height of their victory, indiscriminately put Americans to instant death; and on the right hand and on the left were seen our deceased soldiers; their brains covering the ground and their blood saturating the soil. It was impossible for the British, their employers, to terminate the dreadful work of murder; and in vain did the more humane of the whites of the opposing forces appeal to the infuriated savages to desist.

But there was a pause in the demoniacal proceedings, when an Indian, in soldier's half-dress, appeared on the wall of the fort, and waived his hand. Slight murmurings were heard among the Indians, as if in complaint because their bloody work was for the moment stayed. The chief ordered from the ground the more infuriated savages, and soon the cloud of death that hung over the American victims disappeared, and the light of hope beamed upon their hearts.

That chief was Tecumseh; a man, who though a stern warrior, possessed in an eminent degree, the feelings of humanity. By his prompt and timely interposition, he saved five or six hundred of our men from a cruel death; "and," said General Coombs, "when, afterwards, I saw his dead body on the battle-field, I could not refrain from weeping in remembrance of the kind offices to which I have alluded."

We noticed that many of the eyes of the listeners were suffused with tears.

CURIOUSLY.—In the Criminal Court, yesterday, a man was on trial, charged with the crime of passing counterfeit money. The benches were densely filled with spectators, who watched every movement and listened to every word, as if all their present hopes and future prospects depended on the issue! Judging from their appearance they were laboring men; and, perhaps, being out of employment, they had crowded the court-room, to be entertained by the transactions at the bar, and to pass away the time pleasantly. The accused individual must have congratulated himself that he was furnishing the means for their entertainment! He was the lion of the occasion, "the observed of all observers," especially when his lawyer was discharging on the evidence which he had been given respecting the cut of the hairy appendage to his face. We never before saw more officiously manifested on the part of court-room spectators than yesterday. It could not have been greater had a wife-murderer been in the dock.

The accused counterfeit note passer was duly honored by having the eyes of the jailer and several of his deputies intently fixed upon him; for, there is always a fear on the part of such officials that prisoners may seize a lucky moment and pass away from that terror to evil-doers—the clutch of the law.

DEATH HAS AGAIN invaded the halls of Congress. The Hon. Moses Norris, a Senator of New Hampshire, departed this life on Thursday night, at his lodgings in this city, from an affection of the heart; thus causing a pause in the legislative proceedings, and impressing the surviving members with the solemnity of the event which has so suddenly hurried one of their number to the tomb.

The death of Mr. Norris was yesterday announced in both branches; Messrs. Toucey and Cass, in the Senate, and Messrs. Morrison and Bayly, in the House, severally pronouncing eulogiums on the public and private virtues of the departed Senator.

In accordance with the terms of the resolutions adopted in each branch of Congress, Messrs. Toucey, Dawson, Foot, Fish, James, and Sebastian, of the Senate, and Messrs. Morrison, Chandler, and Bayly, of the House, were appointed a committee to superintend the removal of the remains of the deceased, for interment in New Hampshire.

At four o'clock, yesterday afternoon, the members of both Houses assembled at the late residence of Mr. Norris, where the Rev. Henry Slicer, the Chaplain to the Senate, delivered an impressive prayer.

The corpse, attended by Mrs. Norris and two of her children, together with the members of Congress and their officers, was conveyed to the railroad station, where it was placed in a special car, to be conveyed to New Hampshire.

Mr. James, of the Senate, and Mr. Morrison, of the House, attended by three of the officers of the Senate, Messrs. C. S. Jones, Wm. Mann, and R. Latrue, accompanied the corpse on its way to the State of which the deceased was a distinguished Senator.

THE OLD SOLDIERS.—The Committee of two delegates from each State, appointed in pursuance of a resolution passed at the late Convention of the Old Soldiers, are actively engaged in the furtherance of the business with which they are entrusted, namely: the procuring of additional bounty lands, and pensions. They meet daily at the National Hotel, to report progress.

From what we can learn, the delegates other than those who are now in the city, have gone home with high expectations that Congress will grant them the relief for which they ask, and to which they conceive they are justly entitled.

DISTRICT PENITENTIARY.—There are confined in this institution, white men, 60; black men, 14; white women, 4; black women, 5; white boys, 4; mulatto boys, 6; black boys, 5; mulatto girls, 1. Of these, there were born in the District of Columbia, 47; Maryland, 19; Virginia, 17; Germany, 8; Ireland, 6; France, 2; Pennsylvania, 8; South Carolina, 2; New York, 2; North Carolina, 2; Illinois, 1; Canada, 1; Switzerland, 1; England, 1; Cuba, 1; Ohio, 1; at sea, 1. A white man convicted of bigamy, is engaged in the interesting business of picking oysters.

THE WEATHER, yesterday afternoon, was bland and springlike, and very many ladies and gentlemen were on the promenade. Mamas permitted their "sweetest, dearest, little creatures," not yet able to walk, to be carried about in their nurses' arms, to enjoy the delightful, healthful atmosphere. This was the part of wisdom, for why should the "Younger America" be hand-boxed in winter, because they cannot run at large?

PICK POCKETS.—We have heard, recently, of several cases of pocket-picking. The villains who thus exercise their wits have, thus far, escaped detection, and are still, doubtless, wide awake for further depredations. Two of "the old soldiers," even, were robbed by these light-fingered genies.

Congressional.

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

Senate—Friday, January 12, 1855.

MR. TOUCEY, rising in his place, addressed the Senate as follows: Mr. President, it falls to my lot to perform the duty of announcing to the Senate the death of one of its members. The Hon. Mr. MORRIS, Senator from New Hampshire, is no more. He died at his lodgings, in this city, of an affection of the heart, on Thursday evening, at half past eleven o'clock. Three days ago we saw him in the midst of us, in the fullness of life and health; but he was struck down in a moment without consciousness; and, though he revived in the arms of the physicians, he never afterwards maintained. In 1839 he was elected a member of the legislature from Pittsfield. In 1840 he was chosen Speaker of the House, and in that body won high distinction by his ability and success. In 1841 he became a member of the State Council. In 1841 he was elected to Congress, and served in the House of Representatives for two successive years. In 1847 he was again a member of the legislature of New Hampshire, and again Speaker of the House; and, while serving in that capacity, he was elected to the Senate of the United States for the term of seven years, from the month of March, 1849, and the same year took the seat which he occupied at the time of his death.

Such a record excites the confidence reposed in him by his native State better than any words of mine. While he was a member of the House of Representatives he took an active part in debate. His views on that body were never known to flag or to falter in their support. His views were enlarged and liberal, not limited to the State or section in which he lived, but comprehensive enough to embrace the whole country and its interests of every description. His course, true to his principles and to his friends, reliable under the pressure of difficulties, firm in the maintenance of right, greatly beloved by his family and by those who knew him best, will be lamented by all. When such a man falls, his death is a public calamity.

In conclusion, he submitted resolutions appropriate to the occasion, which were adopted. MR. CASS, (a native of New Hampshire,) in accordance with the resolutions, said: Mr. President: Another solemn warning has come to announce to us, that, in the midst of life, we are subject to death. Another member of this body, who, but a few hours since, was among us, engaged in all the busy occupations of life, has been suddenly called from the service of his country to the presence of his God. The public mind will be also ready, are written upon all the shifting scenes around us, and meet us day by day, from the cradle to the grave. Happy will it be for us, if the lessons which teach us so to believe, and so to conduct that the shadow of the dark valley through which we must pass, may be illumined by the faith and hope which the Redeemer has promised to all who call upon Him through the Gospel.

I did not rise for the purpose of pronouncing a eulogy upon our departed friend. Here, where he was known and appreciated, no such words were needed. I rise to express my sympathy with his family, and my tribute of sorrow for his loss. He was the sole representative of his State upon this floor, the State of his birth; and he left behind him a glowing memory of his worth and his worthiness. This circumstance seems to render it not improper that I should take part in the ceremonies upon this melancholy occasion. It is not in my power to relate the incidents of his life, nor to do justice to his memory. The country, however, is it necessary, for the Senator from Connecticut, (Mr. TOUCEY,) in the beautiful remarks to which we have just listened, has said all that was necessary, and has traced the course of his life, from his early years to his latest, showing the energy, and intellectual power, and moral worth, by which he reached his high position, without any of those adventitious circumstances which sometimes supply the want of merit.

I was in the habit of constant and friendly intercourse with him while he was a member of this body. No one could hold that relation without a glowing memory of his worth and his worthiness. He had a native vigor of intellect, improved by study and reflection, which never failed to exhibit itself in his action and conduct. He had looked upon life with a calm eye, and his judgment was refined by much and varied experience. He had a most commendable firmness of purpose which never gave way before danger and temptation, when his convictions were clear, and to this he joined a probability of success which gave weight to his opinion and the force of his example to his authority.

In this high repository of national power, he was called to fill his views and votes. He was not uncensured by local considerations, nor influenced by local prejudices, but looking to the rights of all, and to the good of all. He was true to his State and to his country, to his benevolent family and his mourning friends. In the Providence of God he has been taken away, while yet in the strength of manhood. As men, so distinguished and so useful, fall one after another, we must humbly hope, that the God who calls them hence will guide others in the path of duty to serve their country and to promote the best interests of society.

The resolutions were adopted, and a committee consisting of Mr. FOOT, MR. TOUCEY, MR. FISH, MR. DAWSON, MR. JAMES, and MR. SEBASTIAN, was appointed to superintend the removal of the remains of the deceased, for interment in New Hampshire, and the Senate adjourned to attend the ceremonies.

The Senate adjourned till Monday.

House of Representatives.

A message was received from the Senate, announcing the death of MOSES NORRIS, late a member of that body, and communicating its proceedings.

MR. MORRISON, who had long been acquainted with the deceased, pronounced a eulogy on the public and private character of his friend; and, in conclusion, offered resolutions expressive of respect to the memory of the deceased, and of sympathy to his family. The resolutions were adopted, and a committee was appointed by the Speaker to act in conjunction with that of the Senate, to superintend the removal of the remains from the late residence of the deceased, and that the members of the House will attend the same.

MR. BAYLY, in accordance with the resolutions, spoke in warm terms of the character of the deceased.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to; when the Speaker appointed Messrs. MORRISON, CHANDLER, and BAYLY, of Virginia, as the committee herein provided for.

On motion by MR. PRESTON, as a further mark of respect.

The House adjourned until Monday.

Supreme Court of the United States.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1855.

Wm. W. Niles, esq., of New York, was admitted an attorney and counselor of this court. No. 40. Edward M. West, plaintiff in error, vs. Joseph Cochran.

The argument of this cause was continued by Mr. Attorney General Cushing, for the defendant in error, as urged by Mr. Geyer, for the plaintiff in error.

Adjourned till M. day at 11 o'clock.

Rev. W. M. Milburn, Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

will preach in the Capitol to-morrow, at 11 o'clock, a. m.

Jan 13

THE FAILURE OF FREE SOCIETY.

Sociology for the South, or the Failure of Free Society, by George Fitzhugh. On sale at TAYLOR & MAUR'S.

Book Store, near 9th street.

Jan. 13

Communicated.

For the Sentinel.

Judiciary Reform of the District of Columbia.

The bill designed to accomplish the above object, which lately passed the House of Representatives of the United States by so large a majority, and which is now pending before the Senate, has been violently assailed by anonymous writers, both in the form of communications to newspapers, and by pamphlets and handbills.

These writers have wholly failed to discuss the subject upon which they have written, in any spirit of justice and fairness. Admitting, as they all do, that judicial reform is demanded by public utility, they have wholly failed to suggest the mode and measure of reform which is needed. They have contented themselves mainly with appeals to prejudice, upon unfounded statements of facts, and show themselves to be, in point of fact, enemies to all reform.

I propose to notice, very briefly, one of the arguments, or, rather, appeals, addressed to prejudice, and calculated, unexplained, to effect the defeat of the bill, viz: to awaken prejudice, and thereby to mislead.

It is the argument, or appeal, which these writers are pleased to denominate the "snapp judgment" system, which they allege is provided for by the bill, and which they address to a class in our community whom they denominate "poor debtors," and for whose interest they seem to be particularly solicitous.

I have always considered that writers were hard pressed for arguments or reasons, who found it necessary to address themselves to classes in a community whose interests are homogeneous and upon whom laws must necessarily act equally.

These writers keep out of view entirely the operation of the existing system, which secures to a single justice, judicial power of all kinds amounting to fifty dollars, exclusive of costs. Warrants for these demands may be made returnable immediately, and the utmost time a defendant can secure, even in a contested case, is fourteen days, unless the justice in his discretion grant longer time. In cases over \$10 and under \$20, there is the right of appeal to the Circuit Court. In cases of \$20 or upwards, the Circuit Court demands a jury trial, and from the verdict of the jury there is no appeal, so that if either party choose it there is no appeal in these latter cases. The Justice has no right to instruct the jury, the verdict is conclusive, no matter upon what ground it is found, or how procured, and there can be no exception or writ of error. What is the practical working of this system? At the present term of the Circuit Court of this District, a case came up on appeal in which the defendant had confessed judgment before the justice to avoid a jury trial and retain his appeal. The Circuit Court decided that, by the confession of judgment, the defendant had waived his right to appeal. In the progress of the discussion in the Circuit Court upon this appeal, a veteran attorney, who had once been a justice of the peace, and whose practice had been in the courts of every description, and who had lost a case before a justice where he was counsel for the plaintiff, and had a jury. This gentleman is one of the most strenuous opponents of the bill. The bill provides a remedy for the obvious defects of the existing system. Now, one would suppose that the zeal which is exhibited for the interests of "poor debtors," would lead some of the champions of "poor debtors" to have the evil I have described corrected. It is no evil to a poor man to be subject to this stringent system, provided he owes not more than \$50; but if he owes more than \$50, even \$51, then he is sorely oppressed if he does not have eighteen months to two years after suit is brought before judgment is obtained.

In all suits at law commenced in the Circuit Court under the existing system, the writ is made returnable to a term of the court, which is the appearance term. If executed, the case goes over to the impotence term, six months off; then, if the declaration be filed, and there be no appearance for the defendant, a judgment may be rendered by the court if the declaration demand a jury certain, or there may be an inquiry by a jury of damages; but, if there be no appearance, the case goes over to the next term, the trial term—six months more. If there be no dispute, or be no cause shown for continuance at the trial term, there is usually a judgment, provided the case be rendered; and, after judgment, the defendant, by giving security, can suspend execution for six months longer; and, when execution does issue, it is made returnable to a term. I have no more to make upon this subject. The bill proposes to remedy it, and adopts the system of Virginia in the courts of which State poor debtors are subjected to as little oppression as in any courts in the world.

And what is the remedy? That when a writ is issued it